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10 June 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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State Dept. review completed

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CONTENTS

1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)

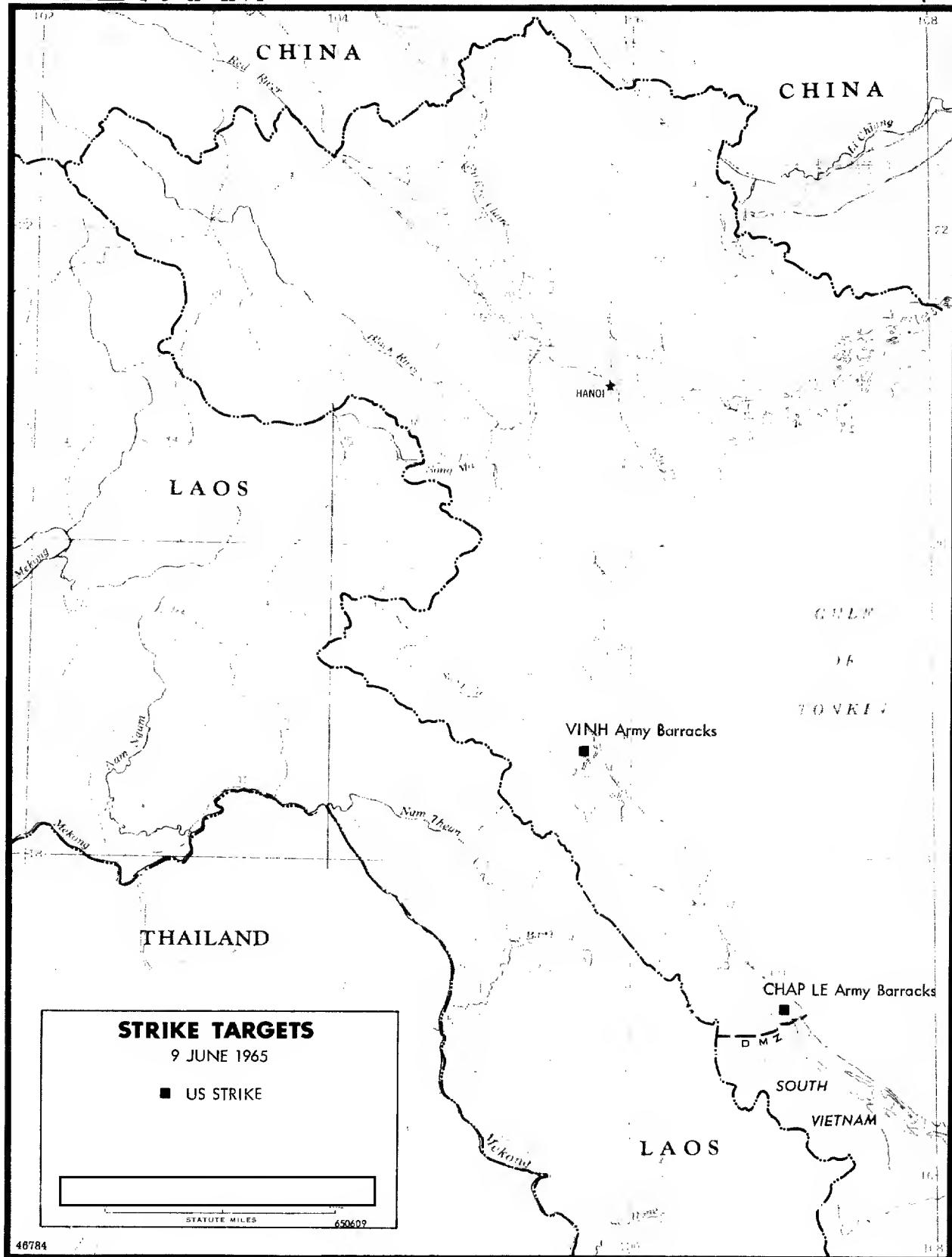
25X1

5. Iraq: Tension and unrest are again acute in Baghdad. (Page 7)

6. Notes: Western Europe;

25X1

NORTH VIETNAM



25X1

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

10 June 1965

***Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)**

Air Strikes in North Vietnam: US aircraft on 9 June struck barracks areas at Vinh and Chap Le and conducted extensive armed route reconnaissance missions. One F4C crashed in Thailand for unknown reasons, but both crew members were recovered.

Pilots reported 50 percent destruction of one area of the Chap Le barracks and unknown damage in another. Aircraft from the MIDWAY and BONHOMME RICHARD reported inflicting light to moderate damage on the Vinh military barracks, believed to contain a major North Vietnamese military headquarters.

US Air Force F-105s conducted extensive armed route reconnaissance missions concentrating on fixed military targets along their routes. Two barracks areas and two staging areas, a radar site, and three lighters were among the targets attacked. US Navy armed reconnaissance missions were hampered by bad weather, but attacked large numbers of trucks, destroying or damaging many of them.

Communist Military Developments: Captured Viet Cong have provided additional information on the North Vietnamese maritime system of infiltration into South Vietnam. The prisoners claim the 103rd Viet Cong Transport Battalion is stationed near Vinh Linh, just north of the DMZ. The battalion includes about 640 men and 12 junks. The junks were sailing to supply North Vietnamese forces in the south when the prisoners' vessel was forced ashore by adverse weather.

Communist Political Developments: Vietnamese Communist propaganda reaction to President Johnson's order authorizing US troops, under certain conditions,

to engage in combat in South Vietnam has been rapid. Hanoi radio on 9 June quoted a Liberation Front statement condemning the presidential order. The statement warned that "if the US Government gives itself the right to order US troops to take part in fighting in South Vietnam, the NFLSV also gives itself the right, when necessary, to call for volunteers from the armies of North Vietnam and of friendly countries to go south to oppose US aggression."

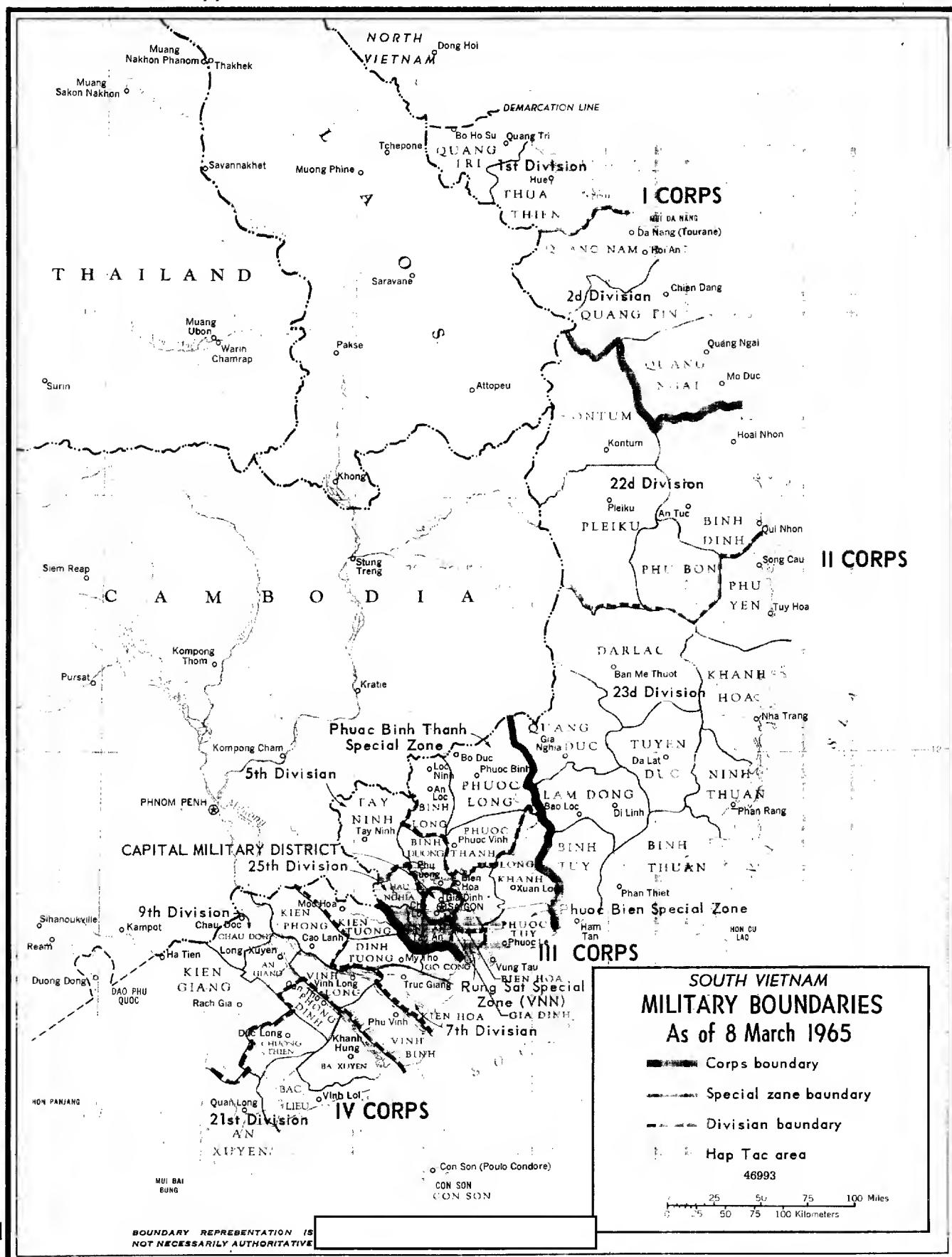
The threat to call for volunteers from the North Vietnamese and "friendly" armies is new. Previously the Front had warned that it would call for volunteers, but had not specified that they would be from regular military units. In both cases, however, the threat has been hedged by the qualifying phrase, "when necessary."

25X1

Political Developments in South Vietnam: Blocked
in his efforts to complete his cabinet reshuffle, and under sustained pressure from Catholics and other groups demanding his resignation, Premier Quat has now turned to the military to mediate the cabinet dispute and the grievances of his opponents. Quat has told the Embassy he intends to consult with the military concerning possible courses of action, including strong pressure on Suu and the National Legislative Council. Although the generals have appeared reluctant to intervene, there is no assurance that, having been drawn in, they will be able to settle matters short of having to resume dominant political control.

(continued)

10 June 65



The Military Situation in South Vietnam: The Viet Cong have continued to launch effective military attacks over widespread areas of the country. A Viet Cong force estimated at one reinforced battalion attacked the town of Dong Xoai in Phuoc Long Province yesterday, overrunning the town and part of the nearby US special forces camp. US casualties are reported as 14 killed and 10 wounded. The engagement is continuing this morning.

Northeast of Saigon, an estimated two Viet Cong battalions early on 9 June overran and burned a government paramilitary center in Long Khanh Province. The Communists killed 52 defenders including two Americans and wounded 24 others, including one American. An estimated 50 to 100 civilians were also wounded and 30 government troops are reported missing. A government relief force has so far failed to contact the guerrillas.

South of Saigon in Phong Dinh Province, heavy fighting occurred yesterday when government troops engaged an entrenched Viet Cong force estimated at 500-700. The action apparently is continuing, and the government side has been reinforced after losing 60 killed, 95 wounded, and 18 missing. Thirty-four Viet Cong have reportedly been captured, and an estimated 150 killed.

In the central highlands province of Binh Dinh, a government convoy of more than 100 soldiers was ambushed yesterday on Route 19, with casualties still unknown except for one American adviser reported wounded.

25X1

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Iraq: Tension and unrest are again becoming acute in Baghdad.

US observers report that the atmosphere is reminiscent of the periods just before the crises of 1958 and 1963. Iraqis of all political persuasions are disillusioned with the generally inept military regime, and the air is filled with rumors of impending coups. Within the government, which has long been divided into pro- and anti-Egyptian factions, disputes have recently become more frequent and personal rivalries more bitter than ever.

The factional infighting has been further complicated by the apparent illness of President Arif. Rumor does not give him long to live, and his death or incapacity would give fresh impetus to the jockeying for power now under way.

Despite growing discontent throughout the country, the regime has stepped up its war against the Kurds and intensified its suppression of the opposition Baath Party. Neither move has won the government any new friends. The campaign against the Kurds has led to a renewal of Soviet propaganda attacks which the Iraqi Government believes may complicate its relations with Moscow.

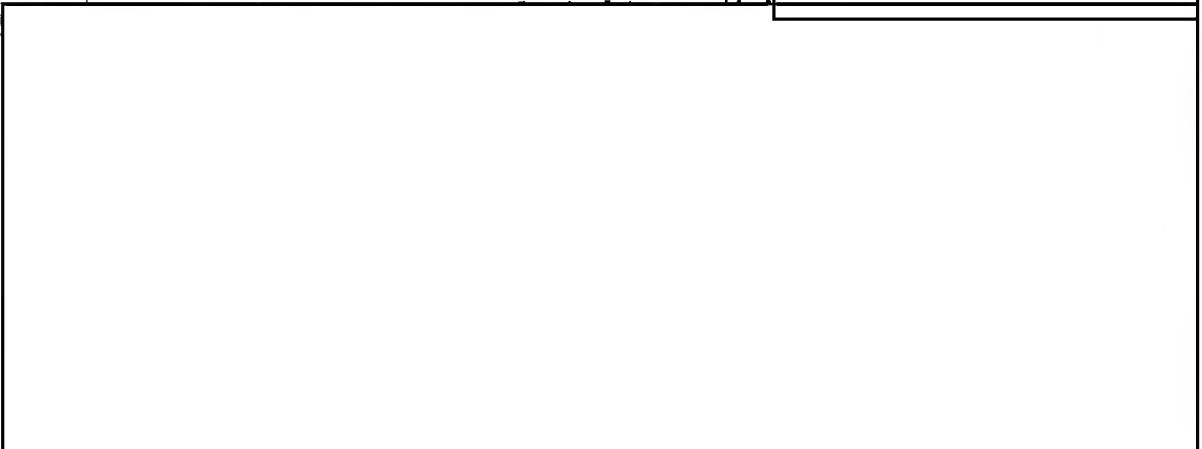
The perennially thorny problem of the relationship with Egypt is also troubling the regime. The recent adoption by the Iraqis of the Egyptian flag and national anthem has further antagonized the large portion of the population opposed to closer ties with Nasir, while proponents of rapid union are unhappy that only pro forma moves toward unity have been made thus far.

(continued)

[Syria's growing estrangement from its Arab
neighbors may also cause the Iraqis trouble.]

25X1

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NOTES

Western Europe: Italy apparently intends within the next month to take new soundings among its EEC partners on the timing of a meeting of the six foreign ministers to discuss European political unity. On his recent trip to Paris, Foreign Minister Fanfani got the impression that the French--who had rejected his April proposal for such a meeting--were "softer" now on European matters. A French official, however, has told the US Embassy that De Gaulle still poses a precondition of "guaranteed success" for political talks and has only agreed 'in principle' to a summit meeting of the Six.]

25X1

25X1

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 9 June 1965 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 91-65, "Prospects for Argentina"

25X1

10 June 65

10

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The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

The Assistant Secretary of Defense

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U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

The Director, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

The Department of Justice

The Attorney General

The Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Director

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The Administrator

The Atomic Energy Commission

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